AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 22 of the application with the following paragraph:

Referring now to Fig. 2, ~~member 19,~~ layer 20, cover 22, and connecter 23 of member 19 are each made of a medical grade silicone or other type of pliable elastomer. Two companies, for example, which manufacture such medical grade silicone are GE Silicones and NuSil Technology. It is within the scope of this disclosure, however, to include a member made of any type of thin, flexible material that is non-porous and non-foam-like. This thin, flexible material is also generally non-absorptive. For example, materials such as polyvinylchloride (PVC), PVC free of diethylhexyl phthalate (DEHP-free PVC), polyurethane, or polyethylene may be used in the manufacture of member 19. Further, layer 20, cover 22, and connecter 23 may each be molded to include anti-microbial constituents. For example, it is within the scope of this disclosure to impregnate member 19 with silver ions which are known anti-microbials.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 23 of the application with the following paragraph:

A plurality of radially extending protrusions or bosses 32 are positioned around central area 28. Bosses 32 are positioned between central area 28 and channels 30, 31, as shown in Fig. 1. Bosses 32 are provided to prevent central area 28 from collapsing in on port 40 of cover 22 to form a seal and effectively block air flow through port 40 while suction is applied to the bandage 10. Port 40 communicates with the vacuum source 14 and/or the irrigation source 16 via connecter 23 and tube 41, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2. As shown in Fig. 5, tube 41 is coupled directly to connecter 23. In some embodiments, [[T]]tube 41 may [[also]] be coupled to connecter 23 by a barbed tube coupler (not shown) engaged with tube 41 and connector 23 to provide a fluid connection therebetween.